

Message Text

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TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, PORG, FEFIN

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - ITEM 10: RESTRUCTURING -
COUNCIL FAILS TO AGREE ON FOLLOW-UP TO RESTRUCTURING RE-
COMMENDATIONS ON ITS OWN REORGANIZATION

REF: GENEVA 10312

1. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON RESTRUCTURING OF ECOSOC (BASED
ON SECTION II OF RECOMMENDATIONS ANNEXED TO GA RES 32/197)
IN CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF 1978 SUMMER SESSION
OF COUNCIL CONTINUED UNTIL JULY 28, BASED ON AN
INFORMAL PAPER REFERRED TO REFTEL. ON THAT DATE, BREAK-
DOWN OCCURED WHEN G-77 SPOKESMAN SAUNDERS OF JAMAICA
ANNOUNCED GROUP'S FINAL DECISION NOT TO AGREE TO COUN-
CIL'S ASSUMPTION OF FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES (CNR) AND COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL
CORPORATIONS (TNCS). IN EFFECT, THIS WOULD HAVE MEANT
THAT THE REFORM PROPOSALS WOULD BE APPLIED ONLY TO POPULA-
TION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS. (THE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE ITS FATE
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DECIDED AT NEXT YEAR'S UN CONFERENCE; THE COMMITTEE ON RE-
VIEW AND APPRAISAL WOULD HAVE, AT MOST, ONLY ONE MORE
MEETING). SUCH A REDUCED PACKAGE WAS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE
TO WESTERN DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE HAD BEEN
NO AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE MEANS BY WHICH THIS ASSUMPTION
OF FUNCTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE, THAT IS, ON THE COMPO-
SITION AND VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

OF THE SUBJECT-ORIENTED SESSIONS (SOS).

2. ALTHOUGH THE G-77, THE USSR AND THE USDEL OFFERED AT LAST INFORMAL MEETING TO CONTINUE WORK DURING SESSION TO SEE IF OTHER ASPECTS OF PACKAGE COULD BE SALVAGED, ALL OTHER WESTERN DELS FELT THAT TEXT HAD BEEN GUTTED, AND EXPRESSED STRONG DISINCLINATION TO CONTINUE. SWEDISH DEL, WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATING AN INFORMAL DRAFT RESOLUTION INTENDED TO PROMOTE A CONCLUSION, ABANDONED ITS EFFORT. FINAL OUTCOME WAS DECISION PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN (AMB SCHELTEMA, NETHERLANDS) AND FORMALLY ADOPTED IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 2. DECISION CALLS ON CHAIRMAN TO PUT TOGETHER A NEW PAPER, TO BE DISCUSSED DURING RESUMED SESSION OF COUNCIL (CONCURRENT WITH 33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY) WITH A VIEW TO SUBMISSION TO THE ASSEMBLY PRIOR TO ITS CLOSING. TEXT IS REPRODUCED IN PARA 6 BELOW.

3. REMARKS OF WESTERN DELEGATIONS, AT BOTH FINAL INFORMAL SESSION AND IN FORMAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WHICH FOLLOWED, WERE ESSENTIALLY STATEMENTS OF SERIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT - CANADIAN OBSERVER DEL BEING THE MOST PRONOUNCED. EC SPOKESMAN (COUNT YORK OF FRG) DETAILED COMMUNITY'S POSITION AND EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT. (INCLUDED IN POSITION OUTLINED IN INFORMAL MEETING WAS EXPLICIT AGREEMENT WITH RIGHT TO VOTE OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN OPEN-ENDED SESSIONAL COMMITTEES). COMMUNITY WAS ALSO READY TO DISCUSS FOR FUTURE UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPLEMENTATION A PHASED INTRODUCTION TO REGROUPING OF SOS COVERING FUNCTIONS DISCHARGED BY POPULATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND STATUS OF WOMEN. USDEL ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AND POINTED TO SOME ASPECTS OF US VIEWS EXPRESSED EARLIER BUT EXERCISED SOME RESTRAINT IN VIEW OF DEPT'S POSITIONS.

4. ALTHOUGH THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS SERVED SOVIET DESIRE TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO WITHOUT PLACING ONUS ON THEM, SOVIET AMB NESTORENKO MADE A STRONG ADDRESS IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WHICH LEFT LITTLE DOUBT AS TO SOVIETS' ULTRA CONSERVATIVE VIEWS. HE REITERATED SOVIET POSITIONS ON MAINTAINING MOST SUBSIDIARY BODIES, ATTACKED SOS CONCEPT AS "UNCLEAR", REJECTED ENLARGEMENT, CONDEMNED G-77 PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE EXPERTS MEETINGS AND DECRIED ALL "HASTY MEASURES". HE THEN UNDERLINED ALL OF THESE BY NOTING THAT RESTRUCTURING "HAD TO TAKE DUE ACCOUNT OF OPINIONS OF ALL". POLES, WHILE TRYING HARD TO SOUND MORE POSITIVE, ECHOED SAME THEMES, ALSO NOTING THAT PROCESS SHOULD END SPEEDILY.

5. IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, G-77 REP (SAUNDERS) REPEATED LINE TAKEN BY JAMAICAN AMB HILL IN PLENARY DEBATE, THAT RE-

STRUCTURING HAD IN FACT PROGRESSED CONSIDERABLY FASTER THAN IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER POINTS OF 6TH AND 7TH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLUTIONS. HE RENEWED APPEAL TO TRY TO WORK ON REMAINING PARTS OF PAPER, BUT URGED THAT RESUMED WORK DURING 33RD GA BEGIN EARLY AND NOT CONTINUE "INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE SESSION". HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE "NAIVE AND UN-REALISTIC" TO REMEDY EXISTING INADEQUACIES AND INEFFICIENCIES "IN ONE FULL SWOOP" AND REPEATED EARLIER SUGGESTION FOR A "MECHANISM WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR ONGOING REVIEW AND ELABORATION OF NEW MEASURES . . . A CONTINUOUS RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE". IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HE CALLED FOR AN SOS ON PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REVIEW (A FUNCTION ALREADY EXERCISED DIRECTLY BY THE COUN-

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CIL). WITHOUT SPECIFYING, HE ATTRIBUTED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF THIS AND THE PRECEDING RESTRUCTURING EFFORT TO FAILURE TO APPLY "PRINCIPLE OF INTRA-DC RELATIONS TO DC-LDC RELATIONS". INDIAN DEL REFERRED TO SOS CONVERSION AS "AXING" AND "ATTACK" ON SUBSIDIARY BODIES ("ECOSOC EATING ITS CHILDREN") AND URGED THAT EXERCISE NOT BE PROLONGED "TOO LONG". HE URGED A FURTHER LOOK AT THE SOS CONCEPT. IN ALL, SAUNDERS AND INDIAN GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE 77 HAD LOST INTEREST IN WHAT HAD BEEN THE KEY ASPECT OF ECOSOC RESTRUCTURING AND WERE ALREADY SEEKING OTHER APPROACHES. USUN WILL EXPLORE G-77 ATTITUDES FURTHER IN SEPTEMBER.

6. TEXT OF DECISION ON FURTHER WORK ON RESTRUCTURING IS

AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE AT THE () TH) MEETING ON () AUGUST 1978, THE
COUNCIL DECIDES:

(A) TO REQUEST THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COM-
MITTEE TO PREPARE A NEW WORKING PAPER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
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OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN SECTION
II OF THE ANNEX TO GA RES 32/197, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
VIEWS EXPRESSED BY DELS AT THIS SESSION;

(B) TO REQUEST THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC)
COMMITTEE TO CONVENE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO CONSIDER THE
ABOVE-MENTIONED WORKING PAPER AND TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF
SUCH CONSULTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL AT ITS RESUMED SECOND
REGULAR SESSION;

(C) TO TAKE A DEFINITIVE DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN SECTION
II OF THE ANNEX TO GA RES 32/197 AT ITS RESUMED SECOND REG-
ULAR SESSION. END QUOTE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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